

Elizabeth Lichtenberg Named 2015 New Hampshire Teacher Of The Year

Commissioner of Education Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D., announced that Elizabeth Lichtenberg, a fourth grade teacher at Alton Central School, is the 2015 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year. In receiving this award, Ms. Lichtenberg becomes New Hampshire's candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

"Selecting a Teacher of the Year is an exceptional way to celebrate the many outstanding and dedicated people teaching in New Hampshire schools," said Commissioner Barry. "Every year the selection committee is amazed by how difficult it is to select a recipient to continue the proud tradition of teaching excellence in our state. Liz will serve as a leader and ambassador for all the outstanding teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning in their classrooms."

Ms. Lichtenberg has been a part of the Alton community for five years. The selection committee recognized her innate ability to develop authentic relationships with her students. Her generous and optimistic demeanor welcomes students into the learning environment where she prides herself on providing the individual guidance, motivation, and nurturing each student needs to find success. Elizabeth puts great pride in ensuring the students are having fun, but requires that her students take risks as she makes every effort to facilitate growth and change by working closely with both students and parents. Her efforts in the classroom extend beyond the classroom doors as she connects her community to her classroom through a rich student centered curriculum. Her commitment to her students and their families, her school, and her community are remarkable.

Liz wrote in her application, "Each day I work to create an environment where my students feel an ownership over their own learning, make connections, and become intrinsically motivated because they can see how what they are learning and doing makes a difference in their community."

Her former principal, Sydney Leggett, wrote in her letter of recommendation, "Elizabeth Lichtenberg is an exceptional teacher and leader in our community at Alton Central School who inspires children, other teachers, and parents to be and do their best."

New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Finalists are: Patricia Edson, a Kindergarten teacher at Carpenter Elementary School, Wolfeboro; Matthew Liebenow, a Physical Education teacher at Pine Tree School, Center Conway; Tina Mülleavay, a Social Studies teacher at Manchester High School West; and Kirsten Werne, a Mathematics teacher at Hollis Brookline Middle School. Semi-finalists are: Amanda Eaton, a first grade teacher at Wilkins School, Amherst; Kristina Peterson, an English teacher at Exeter High School; and Erica Ferland, a Science teacher at Stevens High School, Claremont.

In New Hampshire, Hannaford Supermarkets is proud to partner with the Department of Education to sponsor the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year program. As a company, Hannaford is committed to enriching the quality of life in the communities they serve. One way to do this is by supporting the Teacher of the Year Program that recognizes the significant contributions made by the many dedicated professionals who choose to make teaching their calling.

Each year, New Hampshire schools take part in the State and National Teacher of the Year Program. The National Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers in partnership with the Voya Foundation and People to People Ambassador Programs. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

In early December, these finalists and the 2015 NH Teacher of the Year will be invited to a "Leadership in Education Banquet" to celebrate their accomplishments along with other distinguished educators in the State.

The selection process for the 2015 NH Teacher of the Year program was coordinated by a committee including: Jean-Marie Beauchemin, Hannaford Supermarkets Retail Operations Support Specialist; Cindy Chagnon, NH State Board of Education; Ginny Clifford, Bureau of Credentialing, NH Department of Education; Joey Lee, 2014 NH Teacher of the Year; Peggy McAllister, NH Association of School Principals Executive Director; and Heidi Welch, 2013 NH Teacher of the Year.

For more information about this and other award/recognition programs coordinated through the Department of Education log on to www.education.nh.gov/recognition/index.htm or contact Lori Temple, Public Information Officer at (603) 271-6646 or e-mail Lori.Temple@doe.nh.gov.

To contact Alton Central School please call (603) 875-7500.

Every day a New Hampshire teacher makes a difference in the life of a child. Every year the NH Department of Education honors outstanding teachers who make their communities, profession, and the world a better place.